

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Red-necked Grebe How many? 1Location? East side of Sweet Marsh near Tripoli, Bremer Co., IAType of habitat? Open sheet water near extensive deep water cattail marsh.When? date(s): 12 May 1987 time: ^{approx.} 1:15 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.Who? your name and address: Francis L. Moore, 336 Fairfield St., Waterloo, IA 50703others with you: Tom Kent, Iowa Cityothers before or after you: None that I know of

Describe the bird(s) including only what you observed. Include size, shape, details of all parts (bill, eye, head, neck, back, wing, tail, throat, breast, belly, under tail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

This bird was with a female Ruddy Duck and at first looked as though it was a large Ruddy Duck with its bill tucked behind its wing asleep or resting. After we approached to within 75 to 100 feet the bird raised its head and began swimming adjacent to us. The bird had a fairly dark heavy, longish bill with about the basal $\frac{1}{3}$ having some lighter yellowish color in it, especially on the lower mandible. The eye was black. The top of the head, back of the head and back of the neck was blackish. The back was a very dark gray to black color. The sides were a light gray color when visible above the water line. The breast and front of the neck was a washed out reddish color, not a bright rufous color but a ~~reddish~~ dull reddish color. There was a large whitish to light gray patch which started at the base of the bill and ran through the eye and curved around and included the auricular area, the throat and the chin, but not down onto the neck. The neck also appeared rather thick.

Similar species and how eliminated: No other grebe has a large white throat/check patch, reddish neck and heavy, long bill.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? No

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment:

Sunny, excellent viewing conditions from approx. 50 to 75 ~~feet~~ ^{yards} at closest using 33x90 telescope and 10x40 binoculars.

Previous experience with species and similar ones: Have seen several Red-necked Grebes, several Eared Grebes, quite a few Western (Clark's type) Grebes and lots of Pied-billed and Horned Grebes.

References and persons consulted before writing description: NoneHow long before field notes made? 9 hours this form completed? 22 hours.

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